

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2618

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UNCLAS USNATO 2618

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE IN NORTH EAST ITALY

USIA FOR IPS/IBS

QUOTED BELOW ARE NOTES PREPARED FOR THE NATO PRESS OFFICER
ON EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FOR ITALY. DEPARTMENTS MAY ALSO WISH
TO DRAW UPON SUBSTANCE AS APPROPRIATE.

BEGIN TEXT:

NOTES FOR THE PRESS OFFICER REGARDING THE EARTHQUAKE
IN NORTH EAST ITAL - 12 MAY 1976

NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE CONTINUING TO RESPOND TO
REQUESTS FROM THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND ARE HARMONISING
THEIR RESPONSES THROUGH NATO'S CIVIL EMERGENCY CONSULTATION
ARRANGEMENTS. NATO COMMUNICATIONS ARE BEING USED EXTENSIVELY
TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE EXTENT OF CO-OPERATION WITHIN THE
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ALLIANCE WAS THE USE OF GERMAN AIRCRAFT TO CARRY DUTCH TENTS
TO THE STRICKEN AREA. NORWAY AND BELGIUM HAVE AIRCRAFT ON
STANDBY TO MEET OTHER TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.

IN ADDITION TO THE EXTENSIVE AID THEY HAVE ALREADY

GIVEN, THE UNITED STATES HAVE SENT MORE TENTS; SO HAVE GERMANY, GREECE AND TURKEY. GREECE HAS ALSO SENT FOOD AND TURKEY BEDS, BLANKETS, FOOD AND BLOOD PLASMA. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME 50,000 PEOPLE ARE NOW ACCOMMODATED IN 13,000 TENTS.

IN ADDITION TO AID FROM PRIVATE SOURCES, GERMANY HAS SENT A SELF-SUPPORTING 500-MAN ENGINEER BATTALION TO ITALY. GERMAN GOVERNMENT AID HAS NOW AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 750,00 DM AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONTRIBUTE AN ADDITIONAL 3 MILLION DM FOR HUMANITARIAN MEASURES IN THE STRICKEN AREA.

CANADA HAS INCREASED ITS SUPPORT TEAM BY ANOTHER 100 MEN.

THE US GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAS SPECILISED TEAMS, SUCH AS AN ITALIAN-SPEAKING GROUP OF EPIDEMIOLOGISTS, ON STAND-BY IN CASE OF NEED. THE US HAS ALSO OFFERED THE SERVICES OF A US NAVY SEABEE TEAM.

THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ARE NOW TRYING TO IDENTIFY WHAT HELP MAY BE NEEDED TO REHABILITATE THE POPULTION AFFECTED BY THIS DISASTER. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE ARE READY TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS CONNECTION.

END TEXT.STRAUSZ-HUPE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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